

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 051730Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6285

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UK, SF

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S STATE-  
MENT ON REVIEW OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY

REF: LONDON 15884

1. DISCUSSION IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO ANNOUNCE  
RESULTS OF REVIEW OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY WAS FINALLY  
SETTLED IN FAVOR OF A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT RATHER THAN  
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CONTINUED PIECEMEAL ANNOUNCEMENTS LARGELY BECAUSE OF IN-

CREASING PRESSURES FROM HARDLINE OPPONENTS OF APARTHEID AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ITSELF. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY AND HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS ON DECEMBER 4 (REFTEL) WERE EVIDENTLY INTENDED TO SATISFY DEMANDS OF SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS IN LABOR PARTY CALLING FOR STRONGER PRESSURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND GREATER SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AS WELL AS AND AS RESPONSE TO INCREASING PRESSURES FROM INDEPENDENT BLACK AFRICAN STATES. AT SAME TIME STATEMENT IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT UK, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA. THUS, WHILE RE-IMPOSING UN ARMS EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA (WHICH WAS ACTUALLY DONE MONTHS AGO), CALLAGHAN ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT HAD COMPLETED OVERHAUL OF LICENSING FOR ARMS SALES WHICH MEANS THAT APPLICATIONS FOR DUAL-PURPOSE EQUIPMENT, WHICH HAVE BEEN PILING UP FOR ALMOST A YEAR, CAN BE ACTED ON, AND APPROVED CONTRACTS FOR SALES COMPLETED. ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT, BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOW TAKEN STEPS TO ENCOURAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF BLACK AFRICAN WORKERS IN BRITISH CONTROLLED FIRMS, WHILE CONTINUING PRESENT POLICIES WHICH ALLOW FOR NORMAL TRADING RELATIONS AND FULL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO UK EXPORTERS TO SOUTH AFRICA. ON SIMONSTOWN, GOVERNMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT, WHILE CONTINUING TO USE DOCKING AND OTHER FACILITIES THERE ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS WHEN NECESSARY. BY INCLUDING SIMONSTOWN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA REVIEW, GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO MAKE POINTS WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE MADE IF SIMONSTOWN WAS DEALT WITH ONLY IN DEFENSE REVIEW. AS FOR NAMIBIA, BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED CLOSER IN LINE WITH US AND OTHER STATES THAT HAVE ACCEPTED ICJ OPINION, BUT HAVE ALSO MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT ACCEPT ANY OBLIGATION TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES TO LIMIT OR STOP COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION IN NAMIBIA.

2. ONLY REALLY NEW ELEMENTS IN STATEMENT AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ARE RECOGNITION OF AND GREATER SUPPORT FOR SWAPO. IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH SWAPO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPS, CALLAGHAN, IN QUESTION PERIOD, CALLED ON SAG TO "RECOGNIZE SWAPO AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT."

3. CALLAGHAN AVOIDED GIVING REPORT ON STATUS OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON CONCERNING SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. HE SIMPLY ANNOUNCED THAT UK WOULD BE READY TO ASSIST, AND THAT HE WOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO ANY EXPRESS DESIRE ON THE PART OF IAN SMITH TO MEET WITH HIM. HE AL-

SO IMPLIED THAT IF AFRICANS THEMSELVES REACH AGREEMENT ON FUTURE OF RHODESIA, BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD EASILY ARRANGE NECESSARY CONSTITUTIONAL MODALITIES.

4. IN QUESTION PERIOD AFTER READING STATEMENT, THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM EITHER LABOR OR CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF ANY STRONG OPPOSITION TO CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT. BOTH SIDES OF HOUSE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ENDORSE ANY SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA ACCEPTABLE TO BLACK RHODESIANS AND SMITH. ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, CALLAGHAN SHREWDLY SATISFIED EVERYONE, EXCEPT DIE-HARD SUPPORTERS OF APARTHEID.  
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**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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